





Energy  
Information  
Administration

# Weekly Coal Production

Production for Week Ended:  
December 30, 1989



Coal

## Preface

The *Weekly Coal Production (WCP)* provides weekly production estimates of U.S. coal by State, as well as supplementary data which are usually published twice a month. The Coal Exports and Imports Supplement contains annual as well as detailed monthly data on U.S. coal and coke exports and imports. Another supplement contains detailed monthly data covering electric utility coal consumption, stocks, and receipts (quantity and price).

This publication is prepared by the Coal Division; Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels; Energy Information Administration (EIA) to fulfill its data collection and dissemination responsibilities as specified in the Federal Energy Administration Act of

1974 (P.L. 93-275) as amended. *Weekly Coal Production* is intended for use by industry, press, State and local governments, and consumers. Other publications that may be of interest are the quarterly *Coal Distribution Report*, the *Quarterly Coal Report*, *Coal Production 1988*, and *Coal Data: A Reference*.

This publication was prepared by Wayne M. Watson under the direction of Mary K. Paull and Noel C. Balthasar, Chief, Data Systems Branch. Specific information about the *State Coal Profile: Arkansas* may be obtained from Chris Buckner (202/254-5368). *Questions on energy statistics should be directed to the National Energy Information Center (NEIC) at (202/586-8800).*

### Photo Credit

Comer's Mining Co., State Coal Profile

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# Summary

U.S. coal production in the week ended December 30, 1989, as estimated by the Energy Information Administration, totaled 12 million short tons, 21 percent below the previous week and 9 percent below the comparable week in 1988. Production East of the Mississippi River totaled nearly 6 million short tons, a drop of 39 percent from the previous week, and production West of the Mississippi River totaled 6 million short tons, slightly higher than the previous week.

Production was lower than the previous week in every State, with the exception of Montana, North Dakota,

Oklahoma and Wyoming, due to the Christmas Day holiday. The large decrease in production East of the Mississippi River reflects the decision by some mine operators to exercise the four-day floating holiday option, contained in the United Mine Workers of America contract, during Christmas week.

EIA will publish shortly a preliminary estimate of 1989 coal production, including revisions to third quarter data.

Figure 1. Coal Production

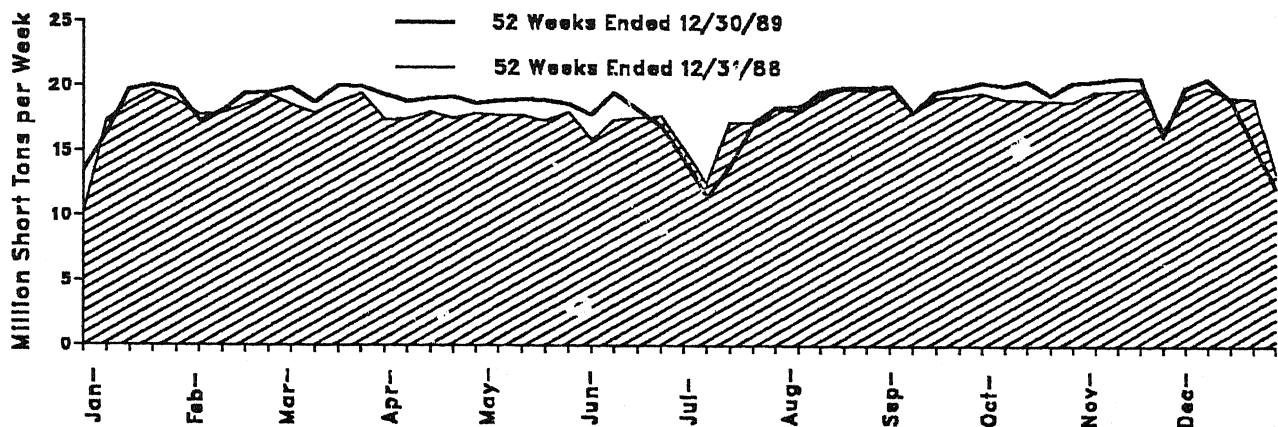


Table 1. Coal Production

Production and Carloadings	Week Ended			52 Weeks Ended		
	12/30/89	12/23/89	12/31/88	12/30/89	12/31/88	Percent Change
Production (Thousand Short Tons)						
Bituminous <sup>1</sup> and Lignite .....	12,188	15,475	13,401	966,506	945,815	2.2
Pennsylvania Anthracite .....	47	71	46	3,581	3,553	.8
U.S. Total .....	12,235	15,546	13,447	970,087	949,368	2.2
Railroad Cars Loaded .....	79,620	102,072	87,734	6,360,460	6,253,261	

<sup>1</sup> Includes subbituminous coal.

Notes: 1989 data are preliminary. Total may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and, State mining agency coal production reports.

**Table 2. Coal Production by State**  
(Thousand Short Tons)

Region and State	Week Ended		
	12/30/89	12/23/89	12/31/88
<b>Bituminous Coal<sup>1</sup> and Lignite</b>			
East of the Mississippi .....	5,799	9,469	7,427
Alabama .....	214	411	335
Illinois .....	775	944	797
Indiana .....	353	527	401
Kentucky .....	1,412	2,447	1,963
Kentucky, Eastern .....	1,018	1,851	1,463
Kentucky, Western .....	394	596	500
Maryland .....	29	53	48
Ohio .....	326	558	430
Pennsylvania Bituminous .....	791	1,191	923
Tennessee .....	50	90	77
Virginia .....	418	750	550
West Virginia .....	1,432	2,498	1,906
West of the Mississippi .....	6,389	6,006	5,974
Alaska .....	26	33	28
Arizona .....	165	209	195
Arkansas .....	1	1	1
California .....	-	-	-
Colorado .....	281	428	284
Iowa .....	5	6	5
Kansas .....	11	14	6
Louisiana .....	9	51	-
Missouri .....	50	64	61
Montana .....	747	571	658
New Mexico .....	354	383	293
North Dakota .....	642	491	548
Oklahoma .....	31	28	31
Texas .....	657	833	651
Utah .....	323	474	255
Washington .....	59	74	66
Wyoming .....	3,029	2,346	2,891
Bituminous <sup>1</sup> and Lignite Total .....	12,188	15,475	13,401
Pennsylvania Anthracite .....	47	71	46
U.S. Total .....	12,235	15,546	13,447

<sup>1</sup> Includes subbituminous coal.

Notes: 1989 data are preliminary. Total may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and, State mining agency coal production reports.

# State Coal Profile: Arkansas

## Total Area of State:

53,104 square miles

## Area Underlain by Coal:

1,700 square miles

## Demonstrated Reserve Base of Coal:

417 million short tons  
(January 1, 1989)  
<1 percent of U.S. total

## First Year of Documented Coal Production:

1840 (220,00 short tons)

## Peak Year of Coal Production:

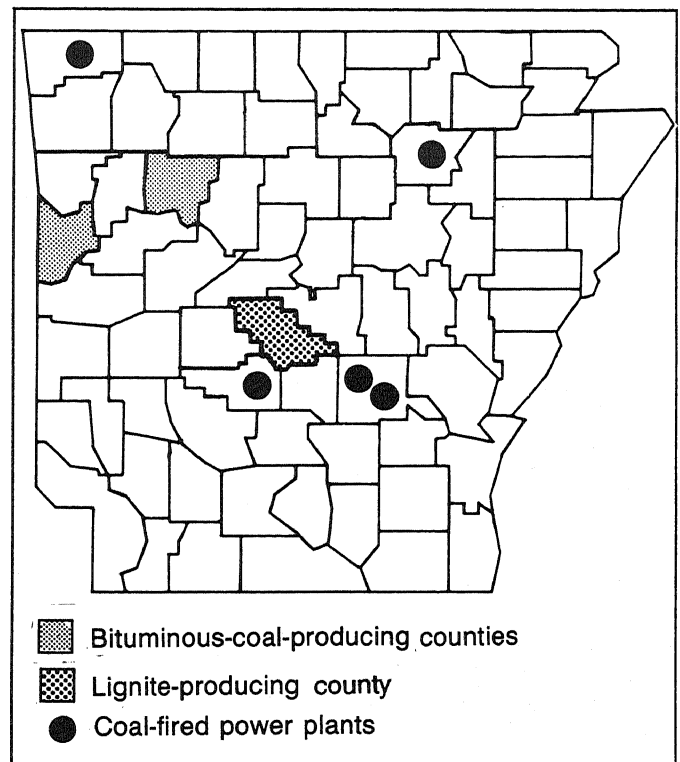
1907 (2.7 million short tons)

## 1988 Coal Production:

276,000 short tons  
(<1 percent of U.S. total)

## 1988 Coal Consumption:

13 million short tons  
(1 percent of U.S. total)



	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage of U.S. Total</u>
<b>Number of Mines (1988)</b> .....	7	<1
Underground .....	0	—
Surface .....	7	<1
<b>Number of Miners (1988)</b> .....	22	<1
(at mines producing more than 10,000 short tons)		
Underground .....	0	—
Surface .....	22	<1
 <b>Average Quality of Utility Coal Receipts (1988)</b>	<u>Arkansas</u>	<u>U.S. Average</u>
<b>Heat Content</b>		
(million Btu per short ton) .....	17.3	20.9
<b>Sulfur Content</b>		
(percent) .....	0.4	1.3
<b>Ash Content</b>		
(percent) .....	5.6	9.9

The coal reserves of Arkansas consist mostly of bituminous coal and are located in the Arkansas Valley, an area 33 miles wide and 92 miles long in the western part of the State. Lignite deposits occur in the coastal plain area in the eastern part of the State. Bituminous coal is mined in Sebastian and Johnson Counties, while lignite is mined in Saline County.

Coal production in Arkansas did not become economically important until railroads reached the Arkansas Valley in the late 1800's. Lignite was first used for fuel, local heating, and as fuel for small locomotives on logging roads near the mines in Ouchita County. In the late 1930's and early 1940's, lignite was mined to make Vandyke brown dye (named after the Flemish painter, Anthony Vandyke, who used the dye as a chief color in his art work).

In the past decade, coal production in Arkansas has been on a downward trend, dropping from more than 300,000 short tons in 1980 to less than 100,000 short tons in 1987, before rising to 276,000 short tons in 1988. The increased output in 1988 included more than 200,000 short tons of lignite from a new mine in Saline County. The increase in lignite production was the result of a new State law which requires, by 1990, that 10 percent of all coal burned by utilities in Arkansas be Arkansas coal. The legislation also stipulates that the price of Arkansas-produced fuel cannot result in any increased electricity cost to consumers. The lignite was blended with low-sulfur subbituminous coal from Wyoming and tested at the White Bluff generating station of Arkansas Power and Light Company, resulting in successful test burns.

In 1989, however, the Arkansas Power and Light Company did not sign a proposed contract with the Benton Mining Project, for 400,000 short tons of lignite in 1989 and 700,000 short tons per year thereafter for use at its White Bluff generating unit. This is because the future position regarding pass-through costs of fuel to White Bluff utility consumers has not been determined. As a result of this unresolved issue, the mine in Saline County has been closed. Meanwhile, additional coal requirements at the Arkansas Power and Light plant will come from Campbell County, Wyoming.

In 1988, most of the 13 million short tons of coal consumed in Arkansas was from mines in Wyoming. Electric power plants accounted for 98 percent of the coal consumption. The remaining 2 percent was used by other industries, mainly paper mills and cement plants.

The coal-fired electrical generating units in Arkansas, located in five power plants, have a combined net capability of 3,817 megawatts. These coal-fired generating units account for 40 percent of the generating capability in Arkansas. In 1988, the units generated 20 billion kilowatthours of electricity, more



*All coal production in Arkansas is from surface mines. Comer Mining Company, located in Sebastian County, uses a front-end loader to scoop up coal for loading onto trucks.*

than half of the total electricity produced in the State. Coal production in Arkansas is a small part of the State's mineral economy, which is dominated by oil and natural gas. In 1988, coal output was estimated to account for less than 1 percent of the total value of the State's mineral production.

Annual coal production in Arkansas is projected to average about 100,000 short tons through 1990. Resources of coalbed methane are also a potential energy source in Arkansas. Despite the closing of the lignite mine in Saline county, Arkansas lignite is still envisioned as playing a role in electrical power generation, and in coal gasification projects in the 21st century.

## **Sources**

Energy Information Administration, *Coal Production* (various issues); *Coal Distribution January-December 1988* (March 1988); *Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Utility Plants 1988* (August 1989); *Inventory of Power Plants in the United States 1988* (August 1989); *Quarterly Coal Report* (various issues); U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Resources of Low-Volatile Bituminous Coal and Semianthracite in West-Central Arkansas, 1978*; Arkansas Geological Commission, *Arkansas Lignite*; "Arkansas P&L Drops Local Plan; PSC Inaction Means Kerr-McGee Wins," *Coal Week*, June 5, 1989, p. 1.

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